

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
JANUARY 24, 2008
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Tom Quinn-NRCS, Karl Jensen-Law. CD, Matt Stoltenberg-RESPEC, Matthew Odden-NRCS, Dale Lundgren-Elk Creek CD, Steve Fairbairn-USFWS, Matthew Minnick-RESPEC, Tate Lantz-NRCS, Dave Kimble-SDGF&P, Bill Anderson-BFID, Jared Oswald-RESPEC, Rod Baumberger, Tim Reich-Butte CD, Clint Pitts-BFID and Diane Gronlund-NRCS

The meeting was call to order by Tim Reich. Karl Jensen moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting, Dale seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Karl Jensen gave the treasurer's report, Tim asked how many practices had yet to be completed, Matt and Jared gave the report. Dale moved to approve the treasurer's report, Clint seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Jared reviewed the RWA report process. The reports for the individual HUC's – Redwater, Lower Belle Fourche, Grand and Moreau watersheds have all been completed and submitted to NRCS for approval.

Field Report- Jared reported the State Water Board approved our 2008 budget as recommended by DENR. We have until June 2009 to complete the 2008 phase of the project. The total budget for this project is now \$7.3 million allocated. Tim asked about the \$120,000 decrease in what DENR was recommending – it basically drops the rangeland cost share from the projected \$350,000 down to \$230,000.

CCPI- Matt reviewed progress on this grant, acres of riparian planning have been increased to 12,000 and Matt and Rod will probably accomplish closer to 14,000 acres.

CIG Grant- (adding technology to on-farm irrigation systems) Jared, Clint and Bill have had a meeting with irrigators and have a list of about 20 irrigators that are interested in doing this. Jared is going to a meeting in Greeley, CO to discuss the work that both groups are doing with their CIG grants so that we are not duplicating efforts.

Rod Baumberger mentioned that it would be good to go back on some of these units where practices are being completed. Also mentioned was the need for follow-up on ranches where prescribed grazing systems have been set up. Tim mentioned that it would also be interesting to include work on carbon sequestration on our rangelands. Jared mentioned that Matt Hubers will be back out here doing rainfall simulation in May and June, but after that he

will be available to work in other parts of the watershed. We discussed working the CIG grant with irrigators as well as doing follow-up work with grazing systems.

Tim asked about the watershed project web site and the need to keep it current. Jared said they are trying to keep it up but may need to apply for additional I&E dollars in the next round to make the web page update a budgeted item.

Tom Quinn went over the new ranking worksheet developed by Matt Stoltenberg, Tate Lantz and himself, and other than a few minor changes, the board approved the new ranking worksheet. Tom Quinn stated he will try to have the irrigation ranking worksheet completed within the next week and he will send it out to all the board members.

Some discussion was held on when we can start practices because the actual dollars won't be available until possibly June and some discussion also held on how we might go about stretching the watershed dollars. One recommendation was the reduction of cost-share on items not to exceed 50%; another idea was to link the cost-share with the environmental points. Steve Fairbairn suggested we include something in the worksheet to consider funds from other sources. The board decided to keep the ranking worksheet as is but to include other funding sources in their cost-share decisions.

Discussion was held on the irrigation ranking worksheet. Tom Quinn stated he will have this completed by Monday a.m. and sent via email to all the board members, and then meet at the sale pen at the Black Hills Stock Show at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday or they can get together via conference call on Tuesday, 1/29/08.

Matthew Minnick, RESPEC, gave a presentation on the Black Hills Development Suitability Risk Model. They have done this for the Rapid City area by pulling in information from various sources such as NRCS, USGS and DENR. RESPEC did the work on this model – very adaptive for other areas by selecting concerns for each individual area. The cost of these studies will vary depending on how many input data layers would need to be included.

Base cost for gathering information and putting it into the system is \$20,000± . If data has to be developed or generated, the cost goes up substantially. \$20,000 is kind of base cost for one quad which is 62 square miles. There was a lot of discussion on the need for studies like this in many parts of the Belle Fourche Watershed.

Tate Lantz showed Matt Hubers presentation on the rainfall simulation work he did in 2007.

The next meeting will be March 20, 2008 @ 1pm in First Western Bank.